



NEXTSTEPS

Finding Your Place Here at First Denham

Session I Participant's Guide
(Updated 2024)

Welcome to Next Steps: Finding Your Place | Session One

This class is a follow-up to **StepONE: Connect to Membership**.

Next Steps: Finding Your Place is led by Paul Keating, our Discipleship Pastor, along with a team of leaders who are passionate about helping individuals take the next steps in their faith journey. Feel free to contact Paul at (225) 664-4102 x205 if you have any questions about how to take the next steps in your faith journey. **Next Steps is a two-week course offered every other month.**

The Basics

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” – 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

Key Truths

- God wants you to _____ in a personal relationship with Him.
- God has given you unique _____ to serve the church.
- God has a _____ and _____ for you here at First Denham.

The Goal

- That I will use my _____ and _____ to faithfully serve the body of Christ.

In this class, we'll explore...

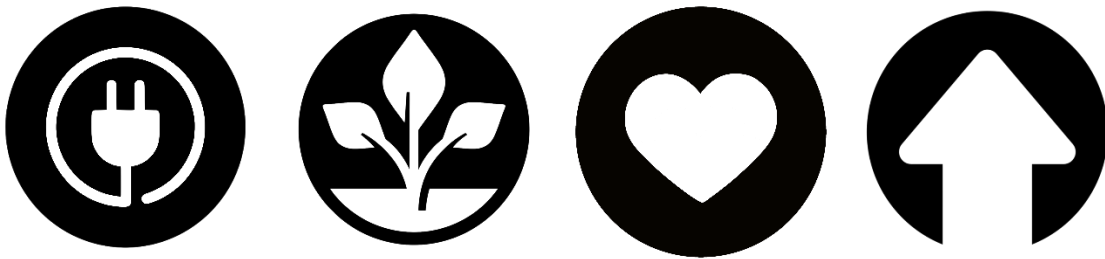
1. Our Discipleship Pathway: The Real-Life Journey (**Session 1**)
2. How to Grow to Maturity in Your Walk with God (**Session 1**)
3. How to Determine & Utilize Your Spiritual Gifts that God has Given You (**Session 2**)
4. How to Take Actionable Steps to Serve and Lead Here at First Denham (**Session 2**)

Part I: Our Discipleship Pathway: The Real-Life Journey

In **StepONE**, we briefly touched on our discipleship pathway called the **Real-Life Journey**. We'll explore this pathway in more detail here.

*“Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this **journey of faith**. And he is the one who **completes the journey of faith**.” – Hebrews 12:2a (NIRV)*

We believe everyone is on a real-life journey of living out their faith in everyday life. This journey involves **four intentional movements** if we are to follow God's calling on our lives.



I. We _____ with God through a personal relationship with Jesus and connecting into the life of the church.

We connect into a _____ with Jesus through trusting in Him as our Lord and Savior.

*“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” – Romans 10:9-10*

We connect into the _____ through baptism, membership, and life-changing relationships.

*“...You are a member of God's very own family...and **you belong in God's household** with every other Christian.” - Ephesians 2:19 (LB)*

*And let us **not neglect our meeting together**, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. – Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)*

*“...so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and **we all belong to each other**.” – Romans 12:5 (NLT)*

*“All of you together are Christ's body, and **each of you is a part of it**.” – 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)*

2. We _____ deeper in our relationship with God and mature in our understanding and obedience to His calling for our lives.

“Let us stop going over the same old ground again and again, always teaching those first lessons about Christ. Let us go on instead to other things and **become mature in our understanding**, as strong Christians ought to be.” – Hebrews 6:1a (LB)

“Jesus replied, ‘But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and **put it into practice.**’” – Luke 11:28 (NLT)

“But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” – 1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

3. We use our gifts and talents to _____ others. Looking to the needs of others over our own interests and demonstrating the love of Christ in tangible ways.

“Each of you should **use whatever gift you have received to serve others**, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” – 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

“The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through **each of us** as a means of **helping the entire church.**” – 1 Corinthians 12:7 (LB)

“Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t just think about your own affairs, but **be interested in others, too**, and in what they are doing.” – Philippians 2:3-4 (LB)

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, **we should do good to everyone**—especially to those in the family of faith.” – Galatians 6:9-10 (NLT)

4. We _____ others to know Jesus and grow closer to Him.

“Go, therefore, and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to follow all that I commanded you**; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)

“But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **you will receive power to testify about me** with great effect...” – Acts 1:8a (LB)

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. **Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people** who will be able to pass them on to others.” – 2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. **And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.** So we are **Christ’s ambassadors**; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’” – 1 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NLT)

It’s important to note that the first two movements are **inward**—relating to meeting your needs and the needs of your family. However, as you continue to grow, God equips and empowers you to meet the **needs of others** both physically & spiritually.



IMPORTANT! We cannot accomplish these actions if we are not _____ about taking these next steps in our faith journey with Christ.

- **If you don’t prioritize church...** you’ll struggle to make meaningful godly connections.
- **If you don’t take steps to grow...** you’ll be ill-equipped to be used by God in meaningful ways.
- **If you don’t use your gifts and talents to serve...** there will be a hole in our ministry here and you will miss out on God’s blessings for your life.
- **If you don’t lead...** you’ll never reach the potential God has for you to help others experience the very grace that you’ve been so graciously given.



As we take each of these intentional steps, we never stop connecting, growing, serving, and leading. They become part of our spiritual fabric of life.

Think Baseball...



Part 2: How to Grow to Maturity in Your Walk with God

In **StepONE**, we covered the first movement of connecting into a personal relationship with Jesus and into the life of the church in detail. **Next Steps** will pick up where StepONE left off.

What is Spiritual Maturity?

“...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” – Ephesians 4:13 (NIV)

I. Spiritual maturity is _____.

"For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him ... **should become like his Son...**" – Romans 8:29 (LB)

Facts about Spiritual Maturity

- It is not _____.

“You have been believers so long now that **you ought to be teaching others**. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.” – Hebrews 5:12-14 (NLT)

- It is a _____.

"...**learn to be mature.**" Proverbs. 8:5 (GNT)

"But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

- It takes _____.

"...**train** yourself to be godly." – 1 Timothy 4:7b (NLT)

"Be diligent in these matters; **give yourself wholly to them...**" – 1 Timothy 4:15a (NIV)

Understanding Discipleship

▶ “Christian Discipleship is developing a personal life-long obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness, changes your values into Kingdom-values, and involves you in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.” – Avery T. Willis Jr.

2. Believers are called _____.

“By this everyone will know that you are my **disciples**...” – John 13:35 (CSB)

“Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these **new disciples** to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

3. I cannot be the disciple Jesus wants me to be without being _____.

“...**discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness**; for bodily training is just slightly beneficial, but godliness is beneficial for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NASB)

“The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is **fully trained** will be like their teacher.” – Luke 6:40 (NIV)

4. The more disciplined I become, _____.

“Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? **So run to win!** All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for **an eternal prize**. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. **I discipline my body like an athlete**, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.” – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

5. The mark of a disciple is _____.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, **take up your cross**, and follow me.” – Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

The cross was the ultimate instrument of death in Jesus’ day reserved for the worst enemies of the Roman empire. While Jesus is not necessarily calling His followers to the same gruesome



death He endured for us (although there have been countless martyrs who gave their lives up for the cause of Christ), He is calling us to recognize **the cost** of what it is to follow Him—that is, death to our old sinful ways, death to our own agenda, and a life of whole-heartedly following Christ wherever He leads you. To take up His cross is to **totally surrender yourself to God’s purpose and direction for your life** no matter the cost.

The Apostle in examining the cost of following Christ exclaimed, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” – Philippians 1:21 (NIV)

6. Christ calls me to _____ pick up my cross.

“Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, **take up your cross daily**, and follow me.” – Luke 9:23 (NLT)

“...God wants us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures **and to live good, God-fearing lives day after day...**” – Titus 2:12b (LB)

7. Cross bearing requires giving Christ _____ in _____ of my life.

“**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.” – Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

“If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ‘If you cling to your life, you will lose it; **but if you give it up for me, you will save it.**’” – Matthew 10:38-39 (LB)

▶ **Christ is to have first place in every area of your life** including your **relationships**, your **emotions**, your **intellect**, your **job/career**, your **health**, and your **resources**. He will accept nothing less because He gave up everything for you. (See John 3:16, Phil. 2:5-11)

Five Habits of a Disciple

“...**for you have put off the old self with its habits** and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself.” – Colossians 3:9b-10 (GNT)



**Knowing
God's Word**



Prayer



Generosity



Fellowship



Evangelism

1. Spending time with _____.

“**If you continue in My word**, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:31-32 (NASB)

(See also 2 Timothy 2:15 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Three Ways We Spend Time in God's Word	
Reading	Daily reading God's word with the intent of hearing from Him.
Topical	Spending time studying what God's word says on a particular topic.
	Committing and internalizing God's word into memory.

How to Read Devotionally/Meditate on God's Word

Two Possible Methods	
"WHAT DID GOD SAY" Method	"H.E.A.R." Method
<p>How? Ask yourself two questions...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was God saying to _____? 2. What is God saying to _____? <p>Pray that God would help you apply this truth(s) to your life and walk in obedience.</p>	<p>How? Do the following...</p> <p>"H" – HIGHLIGHT each verse that speaks to you. "E" – EXPLAIN what the text means. "A" – APPLY truths that you encounter in reading God's word to your life. "R" – RESPOND in obedience by making effort to follow-through in living out those truths.</p> <p>https://replicate.org/what-is-a-hear-journal/</p>

Topical Study

There are many areas in our lives where we need to know what the bible says about a topic or theme. All of the bible has one true Author (2 Tim. 3:16), so how do the commands God has given across history apply to me and my context now? Topical studies allow us to grow deeper by studying a certain theme to better understand God's direction in our lives.

Looking to study a topic but need help? Join a Connect Group or Grow

Group! These groups study real-life topics and explore how God's word informs us how we should live and grow in Christ.

Memorization/Internalization

*"I have **hidden your word in my heart**, that I might not sin against you."* – Psalm 119:11 (NLT)

*"And you must **think constantly** about these commandments I am giving you today. You must teach them to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning. Tie them on your finger, wear them on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house!"* – Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (LB)

Different Types of Verses to Memorize

- _____ **Verses** – Verses that help you to "fight the good fight" and live for God
- _____ **Verses** – Verses that help you to remember the promises of God
- _____ **Verses** – Verses that help you share Jesus with those who don't know Him

Looking for a list of verses to memorize and internalize in your life?

Visit <https://www.fighterverses.com/>.

2. Setting aside time with God in _____.

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will **ask for anything you wish**, and you shall have it. ...and in this way you become my disciples.” – John 15:8-9 (GNT)
(See also Colossians 4:2 & Philippians 4:6-7)

How do I pray?

There are prayers listed all over the bible and Jesus did model a prayer for us in Matthew 6:5-13. But the best way to learn how to pray is to _____! Prayer is a conversation between you and God. It’s personal. It’s transparent because God already knows your heart, but He wants you to spend time with Him. It’s powerful because God listens to our prayers and responds by answering them.

If you’re looking for something that can help you think through different aspects of what you should pray about, try the acrostic **A.C.T.S.**

“ A ” –	Praise God for how good he is to you and how He has done great things in your life.
“ C ” – CONFESSION	Tell God how sorry you are not listening to Him and His instruction for your life.
“ T ” – THANKSGIVING	Let God know how thankful you are for all the blessings He has given you. Be specific!
“ S ” –	Ask God for guidance and help in the everyday matters of life.

Prayer is an essential lifeline for every believer to walk with God and follow His direction for your life. Prayer is what gives us a personal relationship with Jesus. Naturally, when we do not pray, our relationship with God suffers.

3. Committing to faithful _____.

“So therefore, any one of you who does not **renounce all that he has** cannot be my disciple.” – Luke 14:33 (ESV)

“The purpose of tithing is to **teach you always to put God first in your lives.**”
– Deuteronomy 14:23b (LB)

God does not need your money, but He wants you to understand that everything you have is a blessing from Him. By tithing, you are acknowledging God’s graciousness over your life and supporting the work of God’s Kingdom by supporting His church locally and abroad.

Common Questions about Tithing

- **How much should I tithe?** The word for “tithe” in Hebrew literally means “a tenth.”
- **Is tithing the same as an offering?** No. Offerings are given above and beyond the tithe as a form of thanksgiving for something God has done in your life or as a blessing to support something God is doing in His church.
- **Should my tithe be off my pre-tax or post-tax income?** We don’t live in an agrarian society like those in the Bible. However, the idea of “firstfruits” applies to us today. Firstfruits is a biblical way of saying that you should give first to God—before you do anything else with your money. Does this mean “pre-tax” income or “post-tax?” That’s a call between you and God to make. A better question for you to ask may be, “Do I want to receive God’s blessings on my life pre-tax or post-tax?”
- **Does charitable giving count as a tithe?** No. The Bible speaks specifically about the tithe going to the local church, not any non-profit, para-church, or charitable organization. However, you can still be generous and give to such organizations as God leads you.
- **Can I choose how to “spend my tithe?”** The tithe is a form of obedience to the Lord acknowledging what you have is from Him. By deciding how to spend “your tithe,” you are indicating that you are not trusting God to use tithe in the way He seems fit, or of the leaders God has put in place to oversee His resources.
- **Is tithing something for the New Testament (NT) church? Or did it end in the Old Testament (OT)?** The word “tithe” appears in the New Testament four times. Interestingly, none of these passages have explicit instructions for how NT believers are to give. It is, however, taught that NT believers should be generous givers. And from what we know about the early NT church until now is that believers continued to tithe as an act of obedience. Also important to note...Tithing in the Bible predated the OT Law given to Moses. Abraham is the first person we find in the Bible who gave a tithe (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:2). If there is any question about how much a NT believer should give, the answer is generously—not with an attitude of “can I give less than a tenth.” As always, ask God for wisdom.
- **Should I tithe when I have debt and bills to pay? Does God not want me to be debt free?** This is a great question! God does want you be debt free. However, even if you’re in debt or walking through a rough financial season, tithing should still be a priority. While you want to throw everything towards paying off debt, God commands us to always be generous. When it hurts to tithe is when we trust God most. It may seem counterproductive but tithing when it is hard will grow you closer to God than you ever thought and you will be more perceptive of His blessings every day in your life.

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/budgeting/daves-advice-on-tithing-and-giving>

4. Being involved in a _____. (Christian Fellowship)

“A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, **so you must love one another**. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, **if you love one another**.” – John 13:35-36 (NIV)

“**All the believers** devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer... **They worshiped together** at the Temple each day, **met in homes** for the Lord’s Supper, **and shared their meals** with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.” – Acts 2:42, 46-47 (NLT)

Jesus gave believers the church because He knew we needed each other. In **StepONE**, we say “**A Christian without a church home is a spiritual orphan**.” The truth is, we do not grow to spiritual maturity when we neglect meeting together with other believers.

Rick Warren wrote *The Purpose-Driven Church*, in which he outlined five different functions of the church—worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and ministry.

The Five Functions of the Church	
Worship	<p>“Give to the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his presence. Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor.” – 1 Chron. 16:29 (NLT)</p> <p>We join together as the church to worship.</p>
Discipleship	<p>“Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” – Matthew 28:20a (NLT)</p> <p>We join together as the church to lead others to grow in Christ.</p>
Evangelism	<p>And then he told them, “You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.” – Mark 16:15 (LB)</p> <p>We join together as the church to share Jesus with the lost.</p>
Fellowship	<p>“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” – Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)</p> <p>We join together as the church to have community with one another.</p>
Ministry	<p>“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” – 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)</p> <p>We join together as the church to serve one another and meet needs.</p>

Each function of the local church requires that we as believers do them together. It's our **"together-ness"** that makes us a church in the first place. Jesus instituted the local body of believers to be a light to the community and a place where the lost, the hurting, the broken, and the needy can come and find a community of love where He is present.

5. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others... _____

*"For the Son of Man came to **seek and save those who are lost.**" – Luke 19:10 (NLT)*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

*"And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you **fishers of people.**'" – Matthew 4:19 (NASB)*

*"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? **And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?** And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, 'How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!'" – Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)*

How Do I Share Jesus with Others

- A. Know and be able to share your _____
(The story of how you came to trust in Christ)
- B. Know what the Bible says about _____ in Jesus
(See "The Roman Road" & The "A, B, C's" below.)
- C. _____ beforehand, during, and after... Trust God to do His work and speak through you (See Luke 12:12)

Remember: It is not us who saves others, but the Holy Spirit who is at work. (See John 6:4)
You are called to be a faithful witness of Christ. (See Acts 1:8)

It's important to understand the difference between **sharing your story** (testimony of how you came to faith) and **giving a gospel presentation**.

Sharing Your Personal Testimony

Your testimony involves 4 aspects.

- 1. What was your life like _____ you trusted in Jesus?
- 2. How did you come to _____ your need for Jesus?
- 3. What _____ did you take to trust in Jesus?
- 4. How has trusting in Jesus _____ your life?

Your personal testimony is a powerful tool to share Jesus because no one can refute your experience. They can doubt its validity, but you know what you have experienced is truth and life-changing. Your testimony acts as a billboard to those who listen that says, "See what Jesus

can do for you!” Your testimony, however, is _____ to lead someone to Jesus. That’s where presenting the gospel comes into practice.

Giving a Gospel Presentation

For someone to come to faith in Jesus, the _____ must be presented.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, “For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...” (NIV) The Gospel is the “good news” that Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s plan to reconcile the world to Himself. Jesus willingly died on the cross for our sins and took our place of judgment so that we could stand before God forgiven and innocent. Just as important, Jesus rose from that dead proving that He was indeed God and promising the reality that when we die, we too will be raised to life for eternity with Him.

This message is an essential message to hear because salvation is only found in trusting in Jesus—what He did for us on the cross, His death, burial, and resurrection. Ephesians 1:7 states, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (NIV) Apart from Him, we are still condemned and guilty of trespassing against a Holy God. Our end apart from Christ is an eternal place of judgment called Hell. That is why the Gospel is good news—there is hope now and for eternity in trusting Jesus Christ!

So how do I share the Gospel with someone who has never trusted in Jesus? Below are two approaches to presenting a “Plan of Salvation.” The first is the Roman Road (Sequential scriptures taken from the book of Romans). The second is one we often do for children but is also very helpful for adults to grasp as well called the “A, B, C’s” (Named after 3 actions of faith to trust in Jesus). These are just two simple approaches to sharing the Gospel, the message of the Gospel is the same.

The Roman Road	
Romans 3:23	All have sinned and deserve judgment.
Romans 5:8	God loved us so much that even before we knew to ask, God sent Jesus to take our place of judgment. (Add John 3:16 here as well.)
Romans 6:23	Our sin brings death, but Jesus offers us hope.
Romans 10:9	If we trust in Jesus, He promises to save us.
Romans 10:13	It doesn’t matter who you are or what you’ve done, Jesus will still save anyone who calls on Him.
Romans 5:1	The results of salvation.
Romans 8:38-39	Nothing can take us away from God’s love.

The “A, B, C’s”		
A	Admit to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin.	Rom. 3:23, Eccl. 7:20, Rom. 6:23, Acts 3:19, 1 Jn. 1:9
B	Believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and accept God’s gift of forgiveness from sin.	Jn. 3:16, Jn. 14:6, Acts 4:12, Rom. 5:8, Eph. 2:8-9, Jn. 1:11-13
C	Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.	Rom. 10:9-10, 13

Closing the Gospel Presentation

The most important aspect of a Gospel presentation is the closing question: **“Would you like to place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ _____?”** If his or her answer is no, wish them well and pray that God continues to work on their heart. If he or she answers “yes!” Then lead them in a simple prayer of the heart. (Explain it is not the prayer that saves but your faith in Jesus.)

Pray,

“Lord, I admit I am a sinner. I need and want Your forgiveness. I accept Your death as the penalty for my sin, and recognize that Your mercy and grace is a gift You offer to me because of Your great love, not based on anything I have done. Cleanse me and make me Your child. By faith I receive You into my heart as the Son of God and as Savior and Lord of my life. From now on, help me live for You, with You in control. In Your precious name, Amen.”

For more helps in sharing your faith, try visiting some of these websites:

- <https://www.namb.net/evangelism/3circles/>
- <http://www.sharejesuswithoutfear.com/> (iPhone/Android app is available)

How to Grow to Spiritual Maturity in Your Walk with God here at First Denham...

1. Join us for _____...

Worship is a vital part of a growing Christian’s life. We acknowledge that everything we have is God and give Him praise and thanks for all that we have in Him. We also elevate God’s word as the central focus of our time together and allow it to transform our lives.

2. Join a _____...

Connect Groups are a place where you will find **biblical community** with people in similar places of life as you. More than meeting for a weekly bible study, you will do life with your Connect Group members, caring for one another and serving alongside one another in our church and community.

3. Join a _____...

Grow Groups differ from Connect Groups in one big way. Grow Groups are *seasonal groups* whereas Connect Groups are *ongoing*. **Grow Groups typically last for 6-13 weeks and focus on maturing your faith in a specific area.** Studies like Experiencing God, Masterlife, Jesus on Leadership, Share Jesus without Fear, and others are frequent studies we do. We also do specialized studies from men, women, married individuals, parents, and more.

4. Join/Lead a _____...

G3 Groups are a special type of Grow Group. **“G3” stands for “grow three” and is a relational approach for discipleship.** Members of a G3 Group will commit to meet regularly for a year with the intentional aim of following Jesus in becoming disciple-makers. Through this accountability group, members will read through the bible in a year, discuss topics related to following Jesus, pray for one another, be encouraged to share their faith, and more. Maturing in your faith does not happen within a vacuum. Growth happens in the everyday happenings of real life. As we grow and allow God’s word to transform our lives, we in turn use our gifts and talents to serve others and share with them the love of Christ.

This next section will focus on determining the spiritual gifts God has given you and using them for His purposes.

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BEFORE NEXT WEEK...

▶ Write down your **personal testimony** following the 4 aspects of what we discussed today.

1. What was your life like before you trusted in Jesus?
2. How did you come to realize your need for Jesus?
3. What actions did you take to trust in Jesus?
4. How has trusting in Jesus transformed your life?

Be prepared to briefly share your testimony at our meeting next week.

